

Figure S1. (A)  $^{51}\text{V}$  NMR spectra of: (1) The solution resulting when 2 millimoles/liter of  $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3\text{H}$  were added to a 2 mM solution of  $\text{V}^{\text{IV}}\text{O}(\text{salen})$  in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ; (2) After  $\text{O}_2$  was bubbled for 30 min. through a solution containing 2 mM  $\text{V}^{\text{III}}(\text{salen})^+$ .

(B) (1) EPR spectrum of 2 mM  $\text{V}^{\text{IV}}\text{O}(\text{salen})$  in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$ ; (2) After addition of 2 millimoles/liter of  $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3\text{H}$  to the solution in (1).

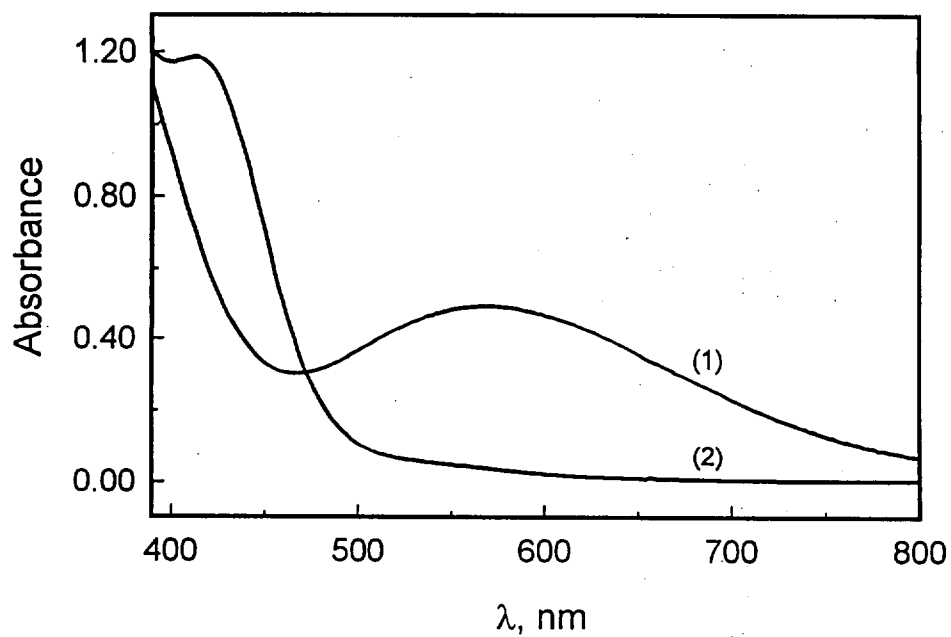


Figure S2. UV-vis spectra of (1)  $V^{VO}(salen)^+$  and (2)  $V^{III}(salen)^+$  in  $CH_3CN$ .

Concentration of complex: 0.4 mM. Optical path length: 1 cm.

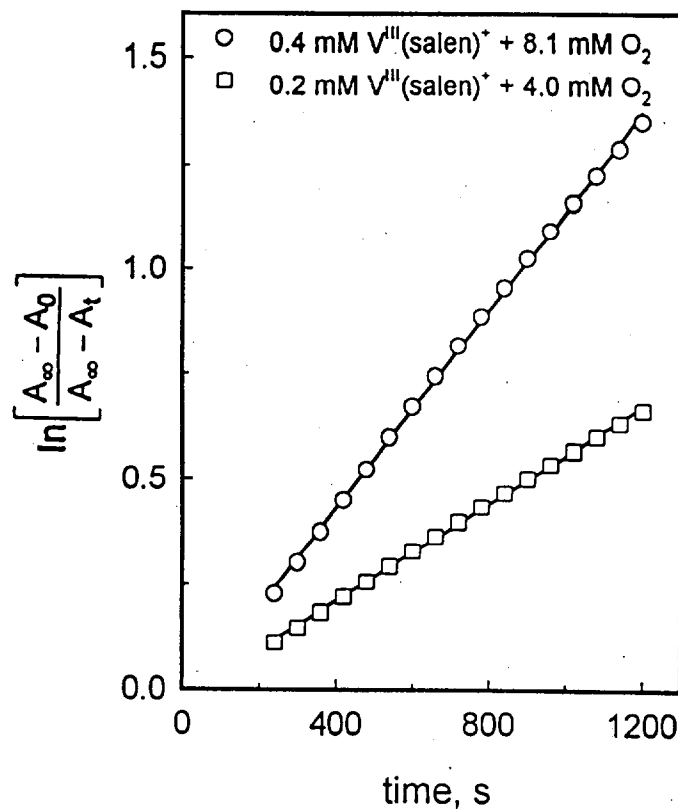


Figure S3. Pseudo-first-order kinetic plots for the reaction between  $V^{III}(salen)^+$  and excess  $O_2$  as monitored spectrophotometrically at 570 nm.  $A_0$  = initial absorbance;  $A_t$  = absorbance at time  $t$ ;  $A_{\infty}$  = absorbance after the completion of the reaction.